

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (currently amended) A coating composition comprising particles of a polyolefin wax or of a mixture of polyolefin waxes suspended in a liquid phase, wherein the polyolefin wax or the components in the mixture of polyolefin waxes are selected from the group consisting of polyethylene waxes, polypropylene waxes, and oxidized polyethylene and polypropylene waxes, and wherein the coating composition is applied to a surface, the liquid phase is evaporated from the applied coating composition, and the dried, applied coating composition is subjected to a heating treatment to coalesce said wax particles.

2. (currently amended) The coating composition according to claim 1 wherein the liquid phase of the coating composition ~~has a boiling point or a boiling point range lower than the melting point or melting point range of the particles of the polyolefin wax or of the mixture of polyolefin waxes.~~ comprises an alcohol, preferably ethyl alcohol, and water.

3. (currently amended) The coating composition according to any of claims 1 ~~to 2~~ wherein the ~~liquid phase of the coating composition is organic.~~ coating composition,

calculated on weight basis, contains:

polyolefin wax/mixture of polyolefin waxes 1 - 25 %, preferably 9 - 13 %, and liquid phase 99 - 75 %, preferably 91 - 87%.

4. (currently amended) The coating composition according to ~~any of the above claims wherein the liquid phase of the coating composition consists essentially of a member of the group consisting of ethers, esters, ketones, alcohols and mixtures thereof.~~ coating composition, calculated on weight basis, contains up to 10% auxiliary agents selected from the group consisting of diluting agents, dispersing agents, conservation agents, emulsifying agents, and colouring agents.

5. (currently amended) The coating composition according to ~~any of the above claims~~ 1 wherein the ~~liquid phase of the coating composition comprises an alcohol, preferably ethyl alcohol.~~ polyolefin wax or one of the components in the mixture of polyolefin waxes suspended in the coating composition is a polyethylene wax.

6. (currently amended) The coating composition according to claim 5 wherein the ~~liquid phase of the coating composition comprises an alcohol, preferably ethyl alcohol, and water.~~ particle size of the polyethylene wax is between 0.1 and 100  $\mu\text{m}$ , preferably between 2 and 25  $\mu\text{m}$ , in particular between 4 and 20  $\mu\text{m}$ .

7. (currently amended) The coating composition according

to claim 5 wherein the ~~concentration of water, calculated on weight basis, in the liquid phase is up to 50 %.~~ melting point of the polyethylene wax is between 70 and 200°C, preferably between 90 and 150°C, in particular between 90 and 120°C.

8. (currently amended) The coating composition according to ~~any of claims 1 to 2~~ 5 wherein the ~~liquid phase of the coating composition is essentially aqueous.~~ polyethylene wax is a high-density polyethylene, HDPE.

9. (currently amended) The coating composition according to ~~any of the above claims wherein the coating composition, calculated on weight basis, contains:~~  
~~— polyolefin wax/mixture of polyolefin waxes 1 — 25 %, preferably 9 — 13 %, liquid phase 99 — 75 %, preferably 91 — 87%.~~ polyolefin wax or one of the components in the mixture of polyolefin waxes suspended in the coating composition is a polypropylene wax.

10. (currently amended) The ~~coating composition according to any of the above claims wherein the coating composition comprises one or more auxiliary agents selected from the group consisting of diluting agents, dispersing agents, conservation agents, emulsifying agents, and colouring agents.~~ A method of treating a surface comprising the steps of  
- providing a coating composition comprising particles of a

polyolefin wax or of a mixture of polyolefin waxes  
suspended in a liquid phase, wherein the polyolefin wax or  
the components in the mixture of polyolefin waxes are  
selected from the group consisting of polyethylene waxes,  
polypropylene waxes, and oxidized polyethylene and  
polypropylene waxes,

- applying said coating composition to the surface,
- evaporating said liquid phase from the applied coating  
composition, and
- subjecting said dried, applied coating composition to a  
heating treatment to coalesce said wax particles.

11. (currently amended) ~~The coating composition  
according to claim 10 wherein the coating composition,  
calculated on weight basis, contains up to 10% auxiliary  
agents.~~ The method according to claim 10 wherein the coating  
composition is applied to the surface by spraying.

12. (currently amended) ~~The coating composition  
according to any of the above claims wherein the coating  
composition is consisting essentially of particles of a  
polyolefin wax or of a mixture of polyolefin waxes suspended  
in a liquid phase.~~ The method according to claim 10 wherein  
the coating composition is applied to the surface in an amount  
of 50 to 350 ml per m<sup>2</sup>.

13. (currently amended) ~~The coating composition  
according to any of the above claims wherein the coating~~

~~composition is consisting essentially of particles of a polyolefin wax or of a mixture of polyolefin waxes suspended in a liquid organic or aqueous phase and one or more auxiliary agents selected from the group consisting of diluting agents, dispersing agents, conservation agents, emulsifying agents, and colouring agents.~~ The method according to claim 10, wherein the surface is selected from a surface of monuments; buildings; constructions having surface structures made of steel, aluminium, sandstone, marble, granite, slate, cement, fibre-reinforced cement, bricks, tiles, fibre glass-reinforced materials, and wood; public and private transportation vehicles like busses, trains, and trolleys; road and traffic signs; sheets; and ship hulls.

14. (currently amended) ~~The coating composition according to any of the above claims wherein the polyolefin wax or the components in the mixture of polyolefin waxes suspended in the coating composition are selected from the group consisting of polyethylene waxes, polypropylene waxes and oxidized and/or halogenated, in particular fluorinated polyethylene and polypropylene waxes.~~ An article of manufacture comprising a structure with a surface obtainable by the method according to claim 10.

15. (currently amended) ~~The coating composition according to any of the above claims wherein the polyolefin~~

~~wax or the components in the mixture of polyolefin waxes suspended in the coating composition is having a degree of polymerisation between 8 and 100, in particular between 20 and 80.~~ A method of providing a surface with a protecting coating by

- applying to the surface a coating composition comprising particles of a polyolefin wax or of a mixture of polyolefin waxes suspended in a liquid phase, wherein the polyolefin wax or the components in the mixture of polyolefin waxes are selected from the group consisting of polyethylene waxes, polypropylene waxes, and oxidized polyethylene and polypropylene waxes,
- evaporating said liquid phase from the applied coating composition;

subjecting said dried, applied coating composition to a heating treatment to raise the temperature of the dried coating composition to bring said particles of a polyolefin wax or of a mixture of polyolefin waxes into a coalescing state allowing said wax particles to provide a continuous coating of the surface; and allowing said heat treated coating composition to consolidate to a protective coating.

16. (currently amended) ~~The coating composition according to claims 14 to 15 wherein the polyolefin wax or the components in the mixture of polyolefin waxes suspended in the coating composition is an oxidised polyethylene wax.~~ The method according to claim 15 wherein the coating composition is applied to the surface by spraying.

17. (currently amended) ~~The coating composition~~

~~according to claim 16 wherein the oxidised polyethylene wax has an acid number in the interval of 1 to 100 mg KOH/g, preferably in the interval of 1 to 40 mg KOH/g, more preferably in the interval of 1 to 30 mg KOH/g, even more preferably in the interval of 2 to 20 mg KOH/g, yet more preferably in the interval of 2 to 10 mg KOH/g.~~ The method according to claim 15 wherein the coating composition is applied to the surface in an amount of 50 to 350 ml per m<sup>2</sup>.

18. (currently amended) ~~The coating composition according to any of the above claims wherein the polyolefin wax or one of the components in the mixture of polyolefin waxes suspended in the coating composition is a polyethylene wax.~~ The method according to claim 15, wherein the surface is selected from a surface of monuments; buildings; constructions having surface structures made of steel, aluminium, sandstone, marble, granite, slate, cement, fibre-reinforced cement, bricks, tiles, fibre glass-reinforced materials, and wood; public and private transportation vehicles like busses, trains, and trolleys; road and traffic signs; sheets; and ship hulls.

19. (currently amended) ~~The coating composition according to any of the above claims wherein the polyolefin wax is essentially a polyethylene wax.~~ An article of manufacture comprising a structure with a surface obtainable

by the method according to claim 15.

20. (currently amended) ~~The coating composition according to any of claims 14 to 19 wherein the particle size of the polyethylene wax is between 0.1 and 100  $\mu\text{m}$ , preferably between 2 and 25  $\mu\text{m}$ , in particular between 4 and 20  $\mu\text{m}$ .~~ An article of manufacture comprising a structure with a surface obtainable by use of the coating composition according to claim 1.

21. (currently amended) ~~The coating composition according to any of claims 14 to 20 wherein the melting point of the polyethylene wax is between 70 and 200°C, preferably between 90 and 150°C, in particular between 90 and 120°C.~~ A method of treating a sheet comprising the steps of

- providing a coating composition comprising particles of a polyolefin wax or of a mixture of polyolefin waxes suspended in a liquid phase, wherein the polyolefin wax or the components in the mixture of polyolefin waxes are selected from the group consisting of polyethylene waxes, polypropylene waxes, and oxidized polyethylene and polypropylene waxes,
- applying said coating composition to at least one surface of the sheet,
- evaporating said liquid phase from the applied coating composition, and
- subjecting said dried, applied coating composition to a heating treatment to coalesce said wax particles.



22. (currently amended) ~~The coating composition according to any of claims 14 to 21 wherein the peak melting point of the polyethylene wax is between 70 and 145°C, preferably between 80 and 140°C, in particular between 90 and 135°C, in particular between 95 and 120°C. A method according to claim 21, wherein the sheet is comprising~~

an adhesive layer having a first major adhesive layer side and a second major adhesive layer side which defines the bottom surface of the sheet and a film having a first major film side and a second major film side, said second major film side being bonded to the first major adhesive layer side, and the coating composition being applied to said first major film side.

23. ~~The coating composition according to any of claims 14 to 22 wherein the polyethylene wax is having a degree of polymerisation between 10 and 3000, in particular between 10 and 2000, in particular between 10 and 1000, in particular between 10 and 500, in particular between 20 and 300, in particular between 30 and 200, in particular between 40 and 150, in particular between 40 and 100. A method of producing a coated sheet comprising the steps of~~

- applying to at least one surface of the sheet a coating composition comprising particles of a polyolefin wax or of a mixture of polyolefin waxes suspended in a liquid phase, wherein the polyolefin wax or the components in the mixture of polyolefin waxes are selected from the group consisting of polyethylene waxes, polypropylene waxes, and oxidized polyethylene and polypropylene waxes,
- evaporating said liquid phase from the applied coating

composition,

- subjecting said dried, applied coating composition to a heating treatment to raise the temperature of the dried coating composition to bring said particles of a polyolefin wax or of a mixture of polyolefin waxes into a coalescing state allowing said wax particles to provide a continuous coating of the sheet, and allowing said heat treated coating composition to consolidate to a protective coating.

24. (currently amended) ~~The coating composition according to any of claims 14 to 22 wherein the polyethylene wax is having a degree of polymerisation between 50 and 3000, in particular between 50 and 1500, in particular between 60 and 1000.~~ A method according to claim 23, wherein the sheet is a film.

25. (currently amended) ~~The coating composition according to any of claims 14 to 24 wherein the polyethylene wax is consisting of essentially linear polyethylene.~~ A method according to claims 23, wherein the sheet is comprising an adhesive layer having a first major adhesive layer side and a second major adhesive layer side which defines the bottom surface of the sheet and a film having a first major film side and a second major film side, said second major film side being bonded to the first major adhesive layer side; and the coating composition being applied to said first major film side.

26. (currently amended) ~~The coating composition according to any of claims 14 to 25 wherein the polyethylene wax is a high-density polyethylene, HDPE.~~ A method according

to claims 23, wherein the sheet is comprising  
an adhesive layer having a first major adhesive layer side  
and a second major adhesive layer side which defines the  
bottom surface of the sheet and two or more films each having  
a first major film side and a second major film side, and each  
film is stacked upon another film such that a second major  
film side of a film above is bonded to a first major film side  
of a film below except the lowest film in the stacked which  
has its second major film side bonded to the first major  
adhesive layer side, and the topmost film side is subjected to  
said method of coating.

27. (currently amended) ~~The coating composition~~  
~~according to any of claims 14 to 26 wherein the polyethylene~~  
~~wax has a viscosity at 149 °C of 2000 mPa s or less, 1000 mPa s~~  
~~or less, of 300 mPa s or less, preferably 200 mPa s or less,~~  
~~preferably 150 mPa s or less, preferably 100 mPa s or less,~~  
~~preferably 70 mPa s or less, preferably 50 mPa s or less,~~  
~~preferably 40 mPa s or less.~~ A method according to claim 23,  
wherein the sheet is comprising two or more pairs of layers,  
each pair of layers comprising an adhesive layer having a  
first major adhesive layer side and a second major adhesive  
layer side, and a film having a first major film side and a  
second major film side with the second major film side being  
bonded to the first major adhesive layer side; and each pair  
of layers is stacked upon another pair of layers such that a  
second major adhesive layer side of a pair above is bonded to  
a first major film side of a pair of layers below, and the  
topmost film side is subjected to said method of coating.

28. (currently amended) ~~The coating composition~~  
~~according to any of claims 14 to 27 wherein the polyethylene~~

~~wax has a molecular weight distribution,  $M_w/M_n$ , of 1 to 25, preferably of 1 to 10, preferably of 1 to 5, preferably of 1 to 3, preferably of 1 to 2, preferably of 1 to 1.5, preferably of 1 to 1.2. An article comprising a sheet treated by the method of any of claims 21 or 23.~~

29. (currently amended) ~~The coating composition according to any of claims 14 to 28 wherein the polyethylene wax has a molecular weight  $M_n$  in the interval of 400 to 3500 and a molecular weight distribution,  $M_w/M_n$ , of 6,0 or less, preferably has a molecular weight  $M_n$  in the interval of 400 to 3500 and a molecular weight distribution,  $M_w/M_n$ , of 4,0 or less, more preferably has a molecular weight  $M_n$  in the interval of 400 to 3500 and a molecular weight distribution,  $5 M_w/M_n$ , of 2,0 or less. An article according to claim 28 further comprising a liner bonded to a major sheet surface.~~

30. (currently amended) ~~The coating composition according to any of claims 14 to 15 wherein the polyolefin wax or one of the components in the mixture of polyolefin waxes suspended in the coating composition is a polypropylene wax. A structure which has been covered fully or in part with an article of claim 28, wherein the structure is selected from the group consisting of buildings, parts of buildings, elevators, windows, doors, tiles, walls, partitions, furniture, signs, bill boards, artwork, buses, trains, subway-trains, and automobiles.~~

31-89. (cancelled)